

TOP SECRET

9/25/68

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
WASHINGTON

MINUTES OF THE  
ARGO STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING  
OF 10 JULY 1968

25X1

This document consists of 3 pages  
No. 16 of 49 Copies, Series A

25X1

The ARGO Steering Committee met on 10 July 1968 in Room 213 of the Executive Office Building.

[ ] of the USGS briefed the Committee on progress toward establishment of a secure center for use of KH materials for updating USGS maps of the United States. [ ] hopes that the area in Reston will be operational by 1 October 1968, with a complement of 47 people including five guards. Necessary equipment is on hand or on order and the USGS is contracting with AMS to rectify KH-4 photography. Plans call for a gradual increase in the number of people working at the facility from the initial 47 to a total of 115 over the next five years. The primary purpose of the facility is to

25X1

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING  
AND DECLASSIFICATION

25X1

TOP SECRET

2

use KH-4 photography for revising the 1:250,000 series for the United States within the next five years, with maintenance on an eight-year basis. The facility will be turning out 30-40 revised sheets at first with 15 compilers, and later 70-80 revised sheets when at full capacity. 477 sheets are involved in covering the entire U. S. In some instances it may be necessary to undertake a complete recompilation of a sheet to improve geometric accuracies. Routine color separation for the production of printing plates can be done outside the secure area at any of the four regional divisions since, at this point, classification would not be a problem. First priority will be given to specific DOD training areas in the U. S. and second priority to areas where the best KH photography is available. It is planned that there will be some revision of cultural detail of the 1:24,000 series beginning at some time in the future.

There was some discussion of sanitization but no problems were foreseen except for the fact that [ ] stated that, although the USGS was responsible for mapping Antarctica, the Survey had been notified that it could not produce maps of the whole area larger than 1:3,000,000 scale. [ ] was somewhat surprised at this restriction and thought the point should be further investigated.

25X1

25X1

[ ] then briefed the Committee on the DOD mapping, charting, and geodesy program. He discussed the CIP five-year forecast for mapping and charting, noting that it reflected JSOP requirements and described the various satellite systems used to collect photography, [ ] and explained the concept of the data bank.

25X1

25X1

In response to an inquiry from the chairman, [ ] said that they would have something in the way of a proposal for a pilot study on crop production surveys to present at the next meeting. The chairman suggested to [ ] that he might brief the committee at its next meeting on the manner in which crop production data on the LCDs and denied areas are presently obtained by his department. He also asked [ ] if it would be possible for NPIC to brief the committee on the bi-color experimentation. [ ] agreed to make arrangements for the next meeting. He presented to the committee charts of the bi-color coverage obtained by Mission 1103.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

TOP SECRET

25X1

TOP SECRET

3

In order to keep things moving during the summer months, the chairman suggested that each of the representatives of the user agencies develop a skeleton outline of what will be included in the studies to be prepared by them over the next few months. He suggested the studies ought to include needs in terms of frequency and area coverage by KH systems and demonstrated benefits to be derived by each agency from such materials. He asked that these outlines be available to the committee in late September or early October. All felt that preliminary outlines could be submitted as requested.

The next meeting of the committee was scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, 25 September 1968, at the Executive Office Building. After the meeting [ ] had the opportunity to speak to the various members regarding the possibility of establishing small security facilities associated with their respective offices.

25X1

25X1

[ ]  
Chairman, ARGO Steering Committee

25X1

TOP SECRET